What is public health?

Public health agencies in our state are always working for a safer and healthier Washington through:

- **Essential programs for improving health**
- **Information that works**
- **Protecting you and your family every day**

Who benefits from public health services?

Public health services cover all people in Washington. Everyone benefits from services like drinking water safety, restaurant inspections and communicable disease prevention and control. The work of public health is essential in keeping our communities healthy and safe and in providing resources to help individuals lead healthy lives. A strong public health network (locally, statewide and nationally) is important in coordinating these essential services.

A local, statewide and national network

Public health coordinates at the local, statewide and national levels to provide essential services for improving health.

Local
- **35 local health jurisdictions serve the 39 counties of Washington**

Statewide
- **The Washington Department of Health**
- **Washington State Board of Health**
- **University of Washington School of Public Health and Community Medicine**

National
- **Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)**
- **The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)**
- **U.S. Department of Health and Human Services**

PUBLIC HEALTH
ALWAYS WORKING FOR A SAFER AND HEALTHIER WASHINGTON

Public Health And You

Essential programs for improving health

Public health agencies help to make your community a healthy place to live, work and play through essential programs like:

- **Immunizations**
- **Communicable disease prevention & testing**
- **Educating the public on how to stay healthy and prevent chronic disease and injury**

Information that works

Public health provides resources for essential health information you can use such as:

- **Educational programs, resources and training on health issues ranging from tobacco prevention to healthy aging**
- **Information on community health trends that policy makers and consumers can use for good decision-making**
- **Statewide health and safety information**

Protecting you and your family every day

Public health agencies provide services that protect our communities from hazards in the environment and ensure individual health and safety through:

- **Drinking water safety**
- **Air quality testing**
- **Septic system inspections**
- **Community crisis response**
- **Restaurant inspections and food/beverage worker permits**
- **Health care provider and hospital licensing**

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